

## NEW BEES AND WASPS — PART X

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## Family HYLAEIDAE

*Pachyprospsis celmisiae*, sp. nov.

TYPE: Female—length 4.5 mm. approx. Black.

Head transverse; face with a few white hairs; frons, clypeus and supra-clypeal area all polished, with a few scattered punctures; vertex long; compound eyes large, reniform; genae polished, with a few white hairs; labrum black; mandibles shining black, reddish apically; antennae with dark scapes, flagellum ferruginous beneath.

Prothorax not visible from above; tubercles black, with a fringe of white hair; mesothorax highly polished, a few scattered punctures; scutellum similar; postscutellum rough; metathorax with area polished and a few white hairs laterally; abdominal dorsal segments black, an excessively delicate sculpture, hind margins broadly amber; ventral segments with some pale hair.

Legs orange-ferruginous, coxae and femora black; tarsi similarly ferruginous; claws reddish; hind calcar amber, dentate; tegulae amber.

Wings clouded, longer than the abdomen; nervures dilute sepia, strong, basal strongly arched; cells: the second cubital acutely angled at apex, and typical of the genus; pterostigma blackish-brown; hamuli not visible.

Locality: Shore of Lake Catani, Mount Buffalo, Victoria, leg. H. C. E. Stewart, Dec. 27, 1947.

The new species approaches *P. nitidiceps* Ckll., which has a dull mesothorax, *P. angophorae* Ckll., with a tessellate sculpture on the mesothorax, and *P. aurantipes*, which has yellow mandibles. The specimens are not easy to study owing to the presence of a mould. These small bees were very active on flowers of the Silver Daisy, *Celmisia longifolia*.

*Euryglossa catanii*, sp. nov.

TYPE: Male—length 6.5 mm. approx. Black and purple.

Head black, transverse, scanty white hair; face with a few loose white hairs; frons with fine longitudinal striæ on a granular sculpture; clypeus shining, convex, a tessellate sculpture, a few scattered punctures; supra-clypeal area similar, but rising to a fine carina that encircles the median ocellus; vertex with black hair, occiput with white; compound eyes large, reniform; genae finely striate, with much white hair; labrum black; mandibulae black; antennae long and black, submoniliform.

Prothorax excessively small; tubercles black, with a tuft of white hair; pleura shining and tessellate; mesothorax shining black, a fine tessellate sculpture, scattered inconspicuous punctures,

some black hair on anterior, lateral margin; scutellum similar; postscutellum with more white hair; metathorax with a very large enclosed shining area, with a delicate tessellation, and a few fine oblique striæ anteriorly, much white hair laterally; abdominal dorsal segments of a deep rich bluish-purple, and a tessellate sculpture, a few dark hairs apically; ventral segments with a little white hair.

*Legs* black, shining, a few white hairs; tarsi piceous, a few straw-coloured hairs; claws dark brown; hind calcar amber; tegulae dark amber.

*Wings* suffused with dark sepia; nervures dark brown, strong; cells: the two large cubitals subequal, the second receiving both intercubitus nervures; pterostigma large, dark brown; hamuli six, strong.

*Locality*: Reed's Lookout, Mount Buffalo, *leg.* H. C. E. Stewart, January 8, 1948 (TYPE in the collection of the author).

This species approaches *E. jucunda* Sm., but is not very close. It is easily known by the purple abdomen and very dark wings. *E. jucunda* has ferruginous antennae and pale tarsi; it was described from Champion Bay and Swan River, Western Australia.

The male was observed by the collector to spring the "trigger" of *Stylidium graminifolium*. Many flies and bees succeed in releasing the bent style of these flowers.

The species is dedicated, at the request of the collector, to the late Carlo Catani, who did so much to open up the Mount Buffalo Plateau.

#### NEWS FROM COUNCIL, FEBRUARY 1949

Encouraging growth continues at the Hawthorn Junior Branch of the F.N.C.V., according to the organizer, Mrs. M. E. Freame, who reported an attendance of over 80 at the November meeting. The children's enthusiasm is gratifying and it is hoped that a few of them will assist at the Maranoa Gardens planting on April 23.

The consideration of plans for any future Show continues to take a prominent place in Council discussions but no decision has yet been reached.

The Club's financial position is again causing concern. In spite of all efforts to keep expenditure down, rising costs are forcing the Council to consider means of raising additional income.

#### YARRA RIVER BIRD NOTES

On December 27, 1947, at Fairfield (on the Kew side of the Yarra) two young Dusky Wood-Swallows (*Artamus cyathopterus*) were perched on a dead eucalypt branch, with the parent birds on each side of them. The parent nearest to me flew away and returned very quickly with a brown butterfly. In being given to the young bird, the insect was dropped, when both birds dived for it, and it was retrieved before touching the ground.

I did not record the White-winged Triller (*Lalage tricolor*) at Heidelberg during the summer of 1947-48. They were present the two previous seasons, and I have now recorded them again for the 1948-49 summer season.

H. J. BRADY.